

Express Mail: EV 630723145 US
U.S. National Phase of PCT/US2004/027896
Attorney Docket: I-2003.009 US
Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-9 will be pending in this application. Applicant has canceled claims 10-11 without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. Applicant has added claim 12. Applicant has amended the claims to conform to U.S. patent practice. Applicant has inserted an Abstract of Disclosure. Applicant has not raised any issue of new matter.

The specification is in the proper format. The present claims define patentable subject matter and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants do not believe that any other fee is due in connection with this filing. If, however, Applicants do owe any such fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. **02-2334**. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **02-2334**.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and request that it be allowed. The Examiner is requested to call the Undersigned if any issues arise that can be addressed over the phone to expedite examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Blackstone", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William M. Blackstone, PTO Reg. No. 29,772
Chief Patent Counsel
Patent Department
Intervet Inc.
P.O. Box 318
29160 Intervet Lane
Millsboro, DE 19966
(302) 934-4317 (tel)
(302) 934-4305 (fax)